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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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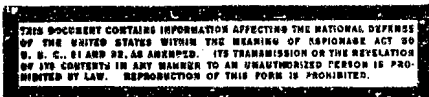
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SOURCE Minju Sangop.

FACTORY-STORE MOVEMENT  
SEVERELY CRITICIZED

The operation of workers' stores in various state-managed factories began nearly 4 months ago under the provision of Cabinet Decision No 83. The express purpose behind the factory-store movement is to raise workers' living and cultural standards by bringing daily necessities and reading materials to them. There are already 234 such stores representing 43 percent of all state-managed stores, throughout North Korea.

The factory-store movement has not, however, progressed as fast as anticipated, probably because of the following reasons:

1. Factory stores were put into operation with inadequate preparations. For example, confiscation papers were in a state of confusion. This made an accurate inventory impossible, retarded the normal progress of the planned business, and made it almost impossible to supply the kind of goods in the quantities wanted by the workers.
2. Political conviction on the part of the store workers was, and still is, very weak. This fact has been clearly illustrated by the fact that private stores have an ample supply of everything which the workers want while the same goods are not found on the shelves in the factory stores. In other words, individual store owners appear to be placing personal interest before the interest of the state.
3. At present the factory-store movement stage lacks a constructive policy and planning methods. Laxity of any degree in this movement constitutes a violation of Directive No 8 of the ministry of Commerce. It has occasionally been noted in various factory stores that the workers are frequently unable to buy needed items just because certain managers have failed to receive the items from the distributor in time. This is a case of poor planning.

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4. The clerks in the factory store are not working hard. For example, they submit problems concerning the store or shipping to the Ministry of Commerce. Then, they just sit and wait for the decision instead of trying to solve the problems in the meantime.

5. There is sufficient evidence to state that the clerks in the factory stores are neglecting to study and analyze the decision handed down by the higher authorities. When their attention is called to certain errors they made, they explain it away by stating that they do not know how to conduct business.

6. The public in general as well as the factory workers do not understand the full meaning of the factory-store movement, nor is there any adequate propaganda about this movement.

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